

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860

UNCLAS TOKYO 12573

FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, JA

SUBJECT: PACIFIC BASIN PROJECT

REF: STATE 176837

SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 13 MEETING COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE PACIFIC BASIN PROJECT AS PRESENTLY CONCEIVED IN REFTEL. OBJECTIONS CENTERED ON RESEARCH TOPIC, THE RATIONALE BEHIND PROJECT AND MANNER IN WHICH PROJECT WOULD BE EXECUTED.

1. PROPOSED TOPIC OF COMMUNICATION CONTACTS AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTRIES CONSIDERED TO HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCE TO POLITICAL REALITY. FOR EXAMPLE, QUESTIONS LISTED ON PAGE TWO OF REFTEL AS POSSIBLE AREAS TO BE EXPLORED IN PHASE ONE OF PROJECT NOT CONSIDERED WORTHWHILE. VIEWS EXPRESSED THAT CONCERNED COUNTRIES KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY STAND AND WHAT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS ARE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WHICH AREAS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP - ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL - ARE MOST IMPORTANT. COMMENT MADE THAT ATTEMPT TO TIE IN LATIN AMERICA WITH ASIAN PACIFIC COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC BASIN MODEL IGNORES FACT THAT IMPACT BETWEEN THESE COUNTRIES KNOWN TO BE PRACTICALLY NEGLIGIBLE. VIEW EXPRESSED THAT COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ASPECT NOT PRACTICAL SUBJECT FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH SINCE IT IS BASICALLY A POLITICAL QUESTION TO BE DECIDED BY GOVERNMENTS.

2. PROCEDURALY PROPOSAL INDICATES THAT EWC WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE
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FOR PROJECT WITH COMMISSIONS PLACED IN PERIPHERAL ROLE OF APPROVING

OR CHALLENGING. NO JAPANESE OR OTHER COUNTRY INPUT IN DESIGNING PROJECT. COMMISSION OBJECTS TO DIVERSION OF FUNDS FROM ITS ALLOCATION TO PROJECT. IN SHORT COMMISSION FEELS IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI.

3. RATIONALE BEHIND PROJECT NOT CLEAR. COMMISSION DOES NOT UNDERSTAND BFS DESIRE TO INVOLVE ITSELF AND COMMISSIONS IN PROJECT THAT WOULD APPEAR TO FALL WITHIN EWC PURVIEW. IF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IS OBJECTIVE, THEN MULTILATERAL PLANNING NECESSARY. IF PROPOSED RESEARCH TOPIC IS OBJECTIVE, THEN IT WOULD APPEAR EWC COULD PURSUE PROJECT INDEPENDENTLY.

FINALLY, SOME MEMBERS OF COMMISSION THOUGHT PRESENTATION REFLECTED MORE OFFICIAL INTEREST THAN SCHOLARLY PERSUASION. IT CONCLUDED THAT PROJECT NOT ACCEPTABLE IN PRESENT FORM BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER IF PROJECT REDESIGNED TO ELIMINATE OBJECTIONS.
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